Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SOFIA 01499 251314Z ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /013 W

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O R 251256Z JUL 78 FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA TO USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4979

UNCLAS SOFIA 1499

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: 1978 BULGARIAN LANGUAGE SUMMER SEMINAR - AUGUST 1-30

REF: USICA 17579 AND 15834

- 1. AFTER REPEATED ATTEMPTS TO OBTAIN DECISION ON SUSAN MARSHALL AND KATHERINE MCKININ ON PARTICIPATION IN SUBJECT SEMINAR, MFA INFORMED EMBASSY JULY 25 THAT THEY HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY MINISTRY OF EDUCATION. ACCORDING TO CULTURAL COOPERATION DEPARTMENT (CCD) OF MFA, MARSHALL AND MCKININ HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH MIN OF ED WHICH HAD SENT THEM FORMS TO FILL OUT. FORMS HAVE BEEN RETURNED TO MIN OF ED WHICH HAS INFORMED MARSHALL AND MCKININ OF THEIR ACCEPTANCE.
- 2. COMMENT: THIS IS BUT LATEST EXAMPLE OF CHRONIC PROBLEM EMBASSY FACES IN DEALING THROUGH CCD OF MFA ON IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAM OF EXCHANGES. P&C OFFICER NOT PERMITTED TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH ACTION AGENCIES, BUT THROUGH CCD WHICH CONTINUALLY DELAYS DECISIONS, USUALLY UNTIL LAST MOMENT AS IN THIS CASE AND PREVIOUSLY WITH AMERICAN LECTURER FOR SEMINAR FOR BULGARIAN TEACHERS OF ENGLISH. WITH MARSHALL AND MCKININ CCD'S RESPONSE FOR WEEKS WAS "WORKING ON IT". MEANWHILE, MIN OF ED, WITH WHICH WE WERE NOT PERMITTED CONTACT, WAS IN FACT IN COMMUNICATION WITH CANDIDATES. EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT AGENCY UNCLASSIFIED

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BE MINDFUL OF THIS PROBLEM IN PREPARATIONS FOR UPCOMING BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS FOR NEXT PROGRAM OF EXCHANGES. END COMMENT.
GARTHOFF

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Concepts: TRANSLATIONS, SEMINARS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 25 jul 1978 Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: n/a

Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Case Number: n/a Disposition Comment: Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SOFIA01499
Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Expiration: Format: TEL

Film Number: D780304-0929

From: SOFIA

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780723/aaaaasxe.tel

Line Count: 59 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3fb1676d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION EUR

Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 29 mar 2005 **Review Event:** Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:**

Review Release Date: N/A Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 1893796 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: 1978 BULGARIAN LANGUAGE SUMMER SEMINAR - AUGUST 1-30

TAGS: SCUL, BU

To: ICA Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3fb1676d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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